

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00606 221018Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 EB-08  
EUR-12 /106 W

-----221021 127728 /13

R 220935Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3699  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0606

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR SU ET SO UR US SA  
SUBJECT: FONMIN COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIA AND HORN

REF: KHARTOUM 0506 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. SUDANESE CONTINUE FEEL ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE CAN BE  
ACHIEVED BUT ARE PUBLICLY STRESSING THIS SHOULD BE DONE PEACE-  
FULLY. NEW FONMIN HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN AT GROWING SOVIET/  
EPMG CONTACTS, BUT FEELS THIS PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME  
NEW USG OVERTURE TO SOMALIA. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM RIYADH TALKS, NEW FONMIN MANSOUR  
KHALID DISCUSSED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN WITH AMBASSADOR  
FEB 19. HE OPINED ERITREANS CAN EVENTUALLY WIN THEIR INDEPEND-  
ENCE MILITARILY, NOT THROUGH OFFENSIVE ACTION BUT SIMPLY  
WAITING FOR RIPE FRUIT TO FALL. ETHIOPIAN MORALE IS BAD AND  
EPMG HAS MANY PROBLEMS. ONLY TRUMP CARD IT HOLDS IS AIR FORCE  
BUT KHALID CLAIMED ONE-HALF ITS PILOTS CURRENTLY GROUNDED AS  
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POLITICALLY UNRELIABLE. AMBASSADOR SAID THERE SOME FEELING  
THAT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY CAN CONTINUE FIGHT SUCCESSFUL DEFENSIVE  
ENGAGEMENTS FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT NEITHER SIDE IS THUS  
LIKELY BE ABLE WIN MILITARILY. KHALID EXPRESSED DOUBT. HE  
NOTED THAT EDU ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONTINUING AND INDICATED  
THAT GONDAR AND OTHER CITIES WOULD HAVE ALREADY FALLEN EXCEPT  
THAT EDU WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO ADMINISTER THEM EFFECT-

IVELY. KHALID THOUGHT EDU STRATEGY IN ENSUING MONTHS WOULD BE SEEK CUT MAIN ARTERIES LINKING ADDIS WITH MASSAWA AND ASSAB, THUS LEAVING CAPITAL DEPENDENT ON DJIBOUTI FOR ALL SUPPLIES.

2. CONSOLIDATION POWER BY MENGISTU WAS CAUSING GOS INCREASING CONCERN, CONTINUED KHALID. EVEN THOUGH TFERI BENTE HAD DELIVERED THE OFFENDING ATTACKS AGAINST NIMEIRI JANUARY 28-29, SUDANESE WOULD HAVE ALREADY SENT THEIR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE BACK TO ADDIS HAD TFERI BENTE STILL BEEN ALIVE. GOS THINKS MENGISTU IS COMMITTED TO SOVIETS AND THEREFORE PROPOSED ADOPT WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE BEFORE TAKING ANY INITIATIVE ON BILATERAL MATTERS.

3. KHALID SEEMED SKEPTICAL RE EARLY PROGRESS MEDIATION EFFORTS BY VARIOUS AFRICANS AND YUGOSLAVS. SENEGALESE MINSTATE SECK HAD NOT RPT NOT SO FAR RETURNED KHARTOUM (KHARTOUM 521; ADDIS 978).

4. KHALID CLAIMED SOMALIS WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL USSR AS RESULT RECENT IMPROVEMENT SOVIET/ETHIOPIAN CONTACTS. HE SAID SAG WOULD HELP WOO MOGADISCIO AWAY FROM RUSSIA BUT THAT USG SHOULD ALSO HELP SINCE TIME WAS RIPE FOR SOME POLICY REORIENTATION ON PART GDRS.

5. COMMENT. AS ENUNCIATED BY KHALID, GOS POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA STEMS NOT ONLY FROM SPECIFIC THREAT POSED BY LARG/EPMG MILITARY SUPPORT TO ANSAR CAMPS BUT ALSO FROM BROADER CONCERNS PROMPTED BY RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN MOSCOW/ADDIS TIES. LATTER  
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THEME HAS ASSUMED GREATER PROMINENCE IN LAST FEW WEEKS, NO DOUBT IN PART AS RESULT PRIMIN'S AND KHALID'S RECENT HIGH LEVEL TALKS IN RIYADH.  
BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FONMIN COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIA AND HORN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SU, ET, SO, UR, US, SA, (KHALID, MANSOUR)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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